

## REMARKS

Claims 1 and 9 have been amended. Claims 10-27 have been canceled without prejudice. New claims 28-31 have been added. Claims 1-9 and 28-31 are pending in the present application. It is respectfully submitted that the new claims are all directed to the elected species. Reexamination and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by, or under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over, U.S. Patent No. 3,831,315 to Gilbert ("Gilbert"). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Independent claims 1 and 9 have been amended to recite, for example, that the nose piece is fixedly secured to the elongated body. In contrast, the nose piece 52 in Gilbert separates from the balloon 18 when the rocket device 10 is launched. See column 2, lines 50-58 and FIG. 1 of Gilbert. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1 and 9 define over Gilbert.

In addition, new claims 28-31 recite that the inflatable elongated body has a nozzle (see 24 in the present application) through which air is introduced into the body, and that the air is retained inside the body at all times during use of the apparatus. In contrast, the balloon 18 in Gilbert is twisted but not tied. When the rocket device 10 is launched, the balloon 18 untwists and deflates. See FIG. 1 and column 2, lines 23-52 in Gilbert. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that claims 28-31 further define over Gilbert.

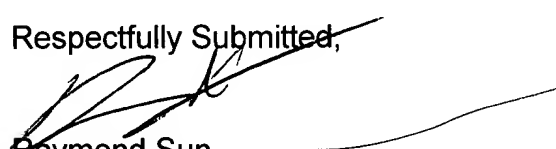
Further, original claim 7 recites that the tails and the elongated body are inflatable at the same time. However, there is no teaching or suggestion in Gilbert that its balloon 18 and the "tails" can be inflated at the same time. In fact, a review of deflated balloon in FIG. 1 of Gilbert indicates that this cannot be possible. Thus, claim 7 further defines over Gilbert.

Finally, original claim 3 recites that the tails are made from a material that is the same as that of the elongated body. However, there is no teaching or suggestion in Gilbert that its balloon 18 and the "tails" (brackets 14) are made from the same material. The balloon 18 is flexible and deflatable, while the brackets 14 are solid. Therefore, the balloons 18 and the brackets 14 cannot be made from the same material. Thus, claim 3 further defines over Gilbert.

In light of the above, allowance of all pending claims is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned if there are any informal matters that can be resolved

in a phone conversation, or if the Examiner has any suggestions or ideas that would further advance the prosecution of this case.

Respectfully Submitted,



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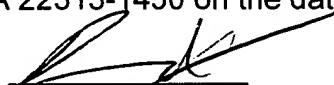
Date: July 7, 2003

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